

Laird's Influence Felt in Senate Shortly on Arrival

Washington — (U.P.) — It didn't take William R. Laird III long to make his influence felt in the United States Senate.

The youthful, handsome new senator from West Virginia had hardly eased his way into his Senate seat before he cast the decisive vote dealing the administration its first major setback on the farm bill.

It was the first vote Laird ever cast in a legislative body,

and he was obviously pleased that it had turned out to be so important. "It made me rather glad that I made the trip by plane instead of train," he commented afterwards.

Laird, who was named on Tuesday to succeed the late Sen. Harley M. Kilgore, arrived in the capital Thursday at 11:17 a.m. EST. Within an hour the former tax commissioner of West Virginia was sworn in as a U.S. senator.

Less than two hours after his arrival he cast the deciding vote in the 45-44 vote by which the Senate defeated the administration's effort to eliminate the dual-parity formula from the farm bill.

The normally slow-moving Senate was not prepared for such rapid-fire developments. Laird's name was not even included in the official tally sheet by which Senate votes are recorded.

Laird himself was somewhat exhausted by the pace. By evening he was sighing: "I have just about run out of gas."

Laird is known back in West Virginia as an up and coming young Democrat. He frankly put himself down as a "liberal" in the tradition of his predecessor.

Prince Rainier Leaves for Monaco

New York — (U.P.) — Prince Rainier III leaves today for Monaco to put the final touches on the elaborate preparations for his wedding to actress Grace Kelly.

The 32-year-old prince booked passage on the French ship Ile de France, which ordered Rainier's personal flag flown on the foremast of the ship.

Father Francis Tucker, the American chaplain who became a confidant of the prince's and a regular member of the palace staff accompanied him on the return journey, as did Charles Ballerig, the prince's private secretary. His private doctor, who arrived with the Prince, already has returned.

Prince Rainier arrived here exactly three months ago, on Dec. 16, and told shipboard reporters that he was here on a strictly unofficial visit, but that he would be delighted if he met some nice American girls.

His courtship of Miss Kelly conducted so secretly that even her studio was caught by surprise, was successful after less than two weeks. They decided to marry shortly after Christmas day, and announced their engagement on Jan. 5. The wedding is scheduled for April 19th in the cathedral in Monte Carlo.

Quotes From the News

Minneapolis, Minn.—Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) in a political speech on the "ominous signs" of war:

"Secretary of State Dulles has boasted that he has taken us to the brink of war three times and brought us back again. I do not think it was Dulles who brought us back from the brink of war. I think we came back by the grace of God."

Cairo, Egypt—Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser in a statement saying his country does not intend to rebuild Egypt by war or an attack on Israel:

London—Earl Attlee, former prime minister of Great Britain, in a speech on Greek politics and the problem of Cyprus to the House of Lords:

"I have a strong idea that if the Cypriots manage their own affairs they might be less inclined to put themselves under a government which has many virtues but, as far as I can make out, even more parties."

New York—The Very Rev. Harold W. Rigney, Roman Catholic priest held prisoner by Communist China for four years, on Red China boasts:

"The Communists told me that I would never see America until America was Communist. They gave themselves 10 to 15 years to take over America if America is asleep."

Ulbricht Reported Heart Attack Victim

Berlin — (U.P.) — The anti-Communist "Information Bureau West" said today East German Communist leader Walter Ulbricht suffered a severe heart attack after his recent return from Moscow.

The report could not be confirmed. The East German government rarely announces illnesses of its leaders.

Snow Storm Racing Across Mid-West; Predict Heavy Fall

By UNITED PRESS

A fast-moving snow storm raced across Illinois and Indiana into the east today. A special Weather Bureau bulletin warned of two to six inches of snow in central and northern Ohio by nightfall.

Forecasters also predicted rain changing to sleet and snow and slicking highways in parts of northern Kentucky and extreme southern Ohio.

In Illinois and Indiana, the Weather Bureau said, from one to four inches of snow will probably change to slush.

New Snow Storm

The new snow storm moved rapidly out of the west, spreading snow across parts of Kansas and Missouri before crossing the Mississippi River. It was centered in Tennessee and moving northeastward with growing strength early today.

To the south, rain hit the Virginias and Carolinas—Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, and all the Gulf states except Texas and Florida.

Alabama and Georgia weathered the worst drenchings, with rainfalls measured up to two inches.

Temperatures were still near zero in parts of Wisconsin and upper Michigan, even though spring is officially only four days away.

Woman Honored for Saving 15 Lives

Pineville, N.C. — (U.P.) — Grateful parents and officials honored Mrs. H. L. Current on Thursday night for risking her life to save 15 school children from possible death.

The woman was given police and motor club citations and a gift of a \$100 savings bond and was praised in speechmaking, for sweeping the children from the path of an automobile hurtling toward them out of control.

Russian Cars Get Past Customs Restrictions

Rio De Janeiro — (U.P.) — Government officials were puzzled today as to how a number of Russian automobiles got past customs, despite important restrictions.

Several "Wazawa Pobieda" cars appeared in Rio in the past few days and some were offered for sale. Rio's customs collector, who has been in office only two weeks, could offer no explanation.

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13 Round Trips Are Added to Bus Lines

Portland — (U.P.) — Thirteen round trips will be added to interurban passenger service on the Oregon City and Bellrose lines today and Sunday service will be restored by Portland Traction company.

E. E. Vonderahe, superintendent of PTC, said the 13 additional round trips would be added except for Saturday when 19 additional trips will be added to Oregon City and 10 to Bellrose.

The expanded service will provide about 40 per cent more trolley rides on the two lines than have been offered since last August. The Public Utilities commission ordered the service restored.

Tokyo — (U.P.) — Neutral Burma and Communist Romania have agreed to establish diplomatic relations, Communist Radio Peiping reported Thursday.

HEART ATTACK FATAL
Olympia — (U.P.) — P. F. Skoog, 61, Olympia's new commissioner of public works, died at his home Wednesday night of a heart attack. Skoog, president of the Skoog Engineering Co., had been elected Tuesday.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday

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Communications Affected by Sunspots

New York — (U.P.) — Short-wave radio communications in the entire daylight portion of the world were silenced for 20 to 25 minutes Thursday by sunspots.

A sudden ionospheric disturbance caused by sunspot activity so disturbed the atmospheric layer against which short wave signals normally bounce that nothing could be heard at all.

Affected were virtually all international press communications, overseas telephones and ship radios.



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CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CONDITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1955		Reserves, Other Liabilities, and Surplus	
Admitted Assets		Per Cent	
Bonds and Stocks		Policy Reserve Funds	
U. S. Government obligations	\$ 458,408,431 (5.8)	To cover future payments under insurance and annuity contracts in force	\$6,560,481,758 (81.5)
Public utility bonds	961,544,016 (12.0)	Held on deposit for policyholders and beneficiaries	375,695,974 (4.7)
Railroad obligations	751,349,702 (9.3)	Dividends and annuities left on deposit with the Society at interest	222,249,235 (2.8)
Industrial obligations	2,335,298,763 (29.0)	Policy claims in process of payment	41,100,979 (0.5)
Other bonds	527,022,522 (6.5)	Premiums paid in advance by policyholders	78,089,429 (1.0)
Preferred and guaranteed stocks	175,893,357 (2.2)	Dividends due and unpaid to policyholders	10,422,561 (0.1)
Common stocks	21,416,008 (0.3)	Dividends apportioned for distribution during 1955	120,800,251 (1.5)
Mortgages and Real Estate		Other Liabilities	
Residential and business mortgages	1,782,973,817 (22.3)	Taxes—federal, state and other	36,342,000 (0.4)
Farm mortgages	318,629,165 (4.0)	Taxes—federal, state and other	12,416,813 (0.2)
Home and branch office buildings	10,689,358 (0.1)	Other obligations	91,251,984 (1.1)
Housing developments and other real estate purchased for investment	200,716,486 (2.5)		
Other residential and business properties	241,061 (—)	Surplus to Policyholders	
Cash	73,296,965 (0.9)	To cover unforeseen contingencies	498,863,030 (6.2)
Transportation equipment	112,378,251 (1.4)	Total	\$8,047,714,014 (100.0)
Loans to policyholders	181,980,731 (2.3)		
Premiums in process of collection	68,221,451 (0.8)		
Interest and rentals due and accrued and other assets	67,742,920 (0.8)		
Total	\$8,047,714,014 (100.0)		

*Including \$9,462,327 on deposit with public authorities. In accordance with requirements of law all bonds subject to amortization are stated at their amortized value and all other bonds and stocks are valued at the market quotations on December 31, 1955, as prescribed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. In addition, as required, a security valuation reserve is included among the liabilities.

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